***America and European Wars***

**(Excerpts from Charles Lindbergh’s Speech: September 15, 1939)**

Source: http://www.charleslindbergh.com/pdf/9\_15\_39.pdf

I speak tonight to those people in the United States of America who feel that the

destiny of this country does not call for our involvement in European wars.

We must band together to prevent the loss of more American lives in these

internal struggles of Europe. We must keep foreign propaganda from pushing our country

blindly into another war. Modern war with all its consequences is too tragic and too

devastating to be approached from anything but a purely American standpoint. We

should never enter a war unless it is absolutely essential to the future welfare of our

nation.

No one foresaw the danger ahead of us more clearly than George Washington. He

solemnly warned the people of America against becoming entangled in European

alliances. For over one hundred years, his advice was followed. We established the

Monroe Doctrine for America. We let other nations fight among themselves. Then, in

1917, we entered a European war. This time we were on England’s side, and so were

France and Russia. Friends and enemies reverse as decades pass – as political doctrines rise

and fall.

The Treaty of Versailles either had to be revised as time passed, or England and

France, to be successful, had to keep Germany weak by force. Neither policy was

followed; Europe wavered back and forth between the two. As a result, another war has

begun, a war which is likely to be far more prostrating than the last, a war which will

again kill off the best youth of Europe, a war which may even lead to the end of our

Western civilization.

America has little to gain in another European war. Our safety does not lie in

fighting European wars. It lies in our own internal strength, in the character of the

American people and of American institutions. As long as we maintain an Army, a Navy,

and an Air Force worthy of the name, as long as America does not decay within, we need

fear no invasion of our country.

The gift of civilized life must still be carried on. It is more important than the

sympathies, the friendships, the desires, of any single generation. This is the test before

America now. This is the challenge – to carry on Western civilization.